



Firing Guns By Electricity.

OUTLOOK IS PROMISING

Crops Throughout Country Are Doing Well and Trade Is Picking Up Steadily.

UNCERTAINTY SOON TO END

When Presidential Campaign Assumes More Definite Shape There Will Be Less Restriction.

New York, July 1.—Advices from special correspondents of the International Mercantile Agency indicate that heavy rainfall in sections of the southwest has proved a deterrent to general business. This, however, will be more than compensated for through benefit to the crops. Although jobbing interests still complain of slow trade, results already achieved are better than a year ago, with promise of increasing July volume.

Boot and shoe manufacturers still have more work than they can attend to. Millinery has not been in so good demand this week. Hats and caps are showing up well, and orders from country districts suggest increased consumption of groceries and drug sundries. As soon as the presidential campaign takes definite shape an element of uncertainty which has had important bearing on the general business situation will be eliminated.

The south has become this week the brightest spot in the whole country, so far as sustained trade and general consumption is concerned. Chicago wholesalers are doing a fair trade in general merchandise.

Pittsburg, for the first time in many weeks, is becoming hopeful over the steel outlook. Sellers are refusing to tie up at low prices, and, while furnaces continue to go out of blast, shrewd observers expect a revival of railroad business as soon as increased earnings, which are now becoming more pronounced, are effective. The feeling is general that the heavy purchasers of steel rails will be forced into the market before long through sheer necessity. The iron and steel industry in general is picking up.

Textile manufacturing is still at low ebb, with little prospect of immediate improvement.

In New England the shutdown of milling interests is restricting consumption of general merchandise.

The outlook for excellent yields for all grains is all that could be expected.

FUNERAL OF NEVA'S VICTIMS.

St. Petersburg, July 1.—The bodies of Lieutenant Cherkazoff and the 20 men who were drowned by the sinking of the submarine boat Delfin at her moorings in the Neva, off the Baltic shipbuilding yards, on Wednesday last, have been brought to St. Petersburg for burial. The remains of the enlisted men will be interred in the Smolensk cemetery tomorrow.

MURDER AND SUICIDE.

Former New Paper Man Kills His Wife and Then Himself

New York, July 1.—After a separation of a year and a half, Lester May, formerly connected with a Brooklyn newspaper, has killed his wife and committed suicide at Ocean Grove, N. J. Mrs. May had been living with her mother and was walking toward her home with her 4-year-old child when she encountered her husband.

Words were exchanged. May suddenly drew a pistol and fired, the bullet piercing his wife's head. He then turned the weapon on himself, placing the barrel in his opened mouth.

Both died instantly. May's parents, who reside in Brooklyn, recently disowned him on account of his irregular habits.

HIGH-PRICED ORCHIDS.

Many Perils Are Undergone in Securing Rare Specimens.

It costs time and money and sometimes life to gather some flowers. The flowers are not the fortune telling daisies, the silky petaled roses or the buttercups growing beside the dusty road in the tall grass. They are the fragile orchids living in the humid jungles of the tropics. To find these men are willing to take journeys of two and three years' duration and costing much money, besides risking their lives.

It is said that many enthusiasts have lost their lives from fatigue and from diseases caught in the pestilential climate which so well suits many of the richest orchids. Some of the finest of these queer plants have been found in swampy jungles and almost impenetrable forests. Weeks are spent floating down rivers in South America on rafts. From these rafts the collectors gather large numbers of the orchids, which hang from the branches of the trees over the water. The insects which are attracted to the flowers are in some instances dangerous to human life. In such cases the tree is cut down and towed through the water until the insects have been washed off. Sometimes snakes are found in the trees. Lives have been lost from attacks by these, or from wild animals. The hundreds of natives who have been hired by collectors as guides and porters have added to the number of those whose lives have been sacrificed.

The loss of life is not always due to tropical fevers, the bites of dangerous insects, or the attacks of reptiles and animals. Sometimes a collector is killed by a native for his money, and is never heard from again. A collector who expects to be gone two or three years may take with him treasure to the amount of from \$30,000 to \$50,000 to cover his expenses. Only a few years ago a London firm sent a collector to South America. It was expected that his trip would take at least two years, and he carried with him \$40,000. He never came back out of the South American forest. It was supposed he had been murdered for his money.

Orchids are found in a number of different tropical countries. Some of the finest are said to come from the Philippines. It is believed that there remain in these islands many choice varieties to be discovered. They are found also in India, Australia, Brazil, Mexico and other countries.

There are persons who collect orchids as others do coins or postage stamps, paying large sums for single plants. It is said that a sum nearly twice as large as the largest price paid for a tulip bulb in the time of the famous tulip craze, \$5,200, was paid in London last year for one plant, and that the stock of another is valued at \$10,000. The highest valued orchid is said to be in the collection of Sir Trevor Lawrence of Dorking, England. Its value has not been tested by sale, however, as the owner cultivates orchids for his own pleasure solely. Miss Gould is said to have paid \$5,000 for one plant.

Some orchids are so large that large teams are required to move them, and so old that they outrank the lives of most men. Baron Aponoya, an Hungarian nobleman, bought from a Venezuelan a plant which was said to be

100 years old. He paid \$5,500 for it. It was so heavy that several teams of oxen were required to draw it from the forest to the coast for transportation over sea.

Among the fine collections is that of Baron Schroeder of the Dell, who has a collection occupying 23 houses, almost under the massive towers of Windsor castle. For two of his speci-

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mens he has been offered \$5,000 apiece. Some men make a specialty of one genus. R. H. Measures of London and Mr. Rothwell of Brookline, Mass., are said to have remarkably fine collections of this character. That of Mr. Measures is one of the finest in the world. Mr. Measures took up the collection of orchids for the benefit of his health. A physician told him to buy a place in the country and take up the cultivation of some special kind of plant. He selected the orchid.

Joseph Chamberlain can always be picked out easily in the house of commons by the orchid in his buttonhole. He is fond of orchids and has a fine collection of them.

A story is told of one orchid which proved to be an unusually profitable speculation for the owner. He was a wealthy English iron merchant, and bought the plant from a dealer near London for \$375. The plant proved to be an unusually fine specimen, so fine that the owner divided it into ten parts. Of these he sold eight for sums which brought the total receipts up to \$10,000. The firm from which he bought it originally, hearing of this, tried to buy from him one of the parts. He refused to sell it for less than \$5,000, notwithstanding the fact that he would still have one part remaining.

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SEASIDE DIVISION

Table with columns: Leave, ASTORIA, Arrive. Rows: 11:35 a.m. for Seaside Direct / 5:30 p.m. Leave ASTORIA Arrive 8:15 a.m. for Warrenton, / 10:45 a.m. Hammond, Ft. 5:50 p.m. Stevens, Seaside / 7:40 a.m. Leave SEASIDE Arrive 4:30 p.m. for Astoria direct / 12:30 p.m. Leave SEASIDE Arrive 6:15 a.m. for Warrenton Ft. / 9:25 a.m. Stevens, Ham- / mond, Astoria / 7:30 p.m. 10:30 a.m. Additional train leaves Astoria daily at 11:30 a.m. for all points on Ft. Stevens Branch, arriving Ft. Stevens 11:30 p.m., returning, leaves Ft. Stevens at 2:00 p.m., arriving Astoria 2:45 p.m.

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Table with columns: Depart, TIME SCHEDULES From PORTLAND, Arrive. Rows: Chicago Portland Special 8:15 a.m. via Huntington Salt Lake, Denver, Ft. Worth, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago and the East 5:25 p.m. Atlantic Express 8:15 p.m. via Huntington Salt Lake, Denver, Ft. Worth, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago and the East 7:15 a.m. St. Paul Fast Mail 6:15 p.m. via Spokane Walla Walla, Lewiston, Spokane, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Milwaukee, Chicago, and East 6:00 p.m.

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